

What is claimed is:

1. A method for distributing data over a network, comprising:
  - providing local transfer stations configured to receive the data from a remote storage device and to output the data to a terminal device comprising a recordable medium for storing the data and information for data authorization; and
  - transferring the data to at least one of the local transfer stations for download of the data to the terminal device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is stored in an encrypted format based at least in part on the information for data authorization.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the transferring occurs via a communicative coupling between the remote storage device and the local transfer stations.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the communicative coupling comprises at least one of a network connection, a wireless link, a terrestrial broadcast, a satellite broadcast, a fiber optic link or physical transport.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request for the data, wherein the transferring provides the storage device to at least one of the local transfer stations according to the request.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the request specifies a particular time before which the transferring is to be performed.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a plurality of requests for delivery of the data to selected local transfer stations, wherein the transferring includes scheduling the delivery to the selected transfer stations.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring the data from a remote site via electronic connection to one or more of the local transfer stations.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising operating at least one of the local transfer stations to download a requested portion of the data to the receiving device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the download for the local transfer station to the device is wireless.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising outputting the data in response to a signal from the receiving device.

12. The method of claim 5, wherein the request selects the data and at least one of said local transfer stations.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a service center coupled to at least one of the local transfer stations by communication lines.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the local transfer stations are located at commuter transit stations and wherein the data includes movies.

15. A method of accessing data for download to a receiving device, comprising:

    providing a plurality of service centers to process requested data from users on a network;

    providing a plurality of local transfer stations within a geographic area and accessible by the network, the local transfer stations configured with links to link with the receiving device in order to select and download the requested data over one of the links; and

    loading the plurality of transfer stations with subsets of the data in the geographic area.

16. A system for data distribution, the data stored on a recordable medium, comprising:

    local transfer stations configured to receive the data from the recordable medium and to output the data;

    a service center to process requests for the data at at least one of the local transfer stations, the processing including scheduling the delivery of the requested data to the selected transfer station; and

transport devices for physically transporting the recordable medium storing the requested data to the selected transfer station.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the local transfer stations output the data to a receiving device.

18. The system of claim 16, further comprising a communications link between at least one of the local transfer stations and the service center, wherein the service center receives the requests from the at least one local transfer station via the link.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising at least another service center for servicing the local transfer stations and communication links between the service center and the at least another service center.

20. A method for distribution of data over a network, comprising:  
transporting data from a service center to a local transfer station, wherein the data is requested by a user having access to the network;  
storing the requested data at the local transfer station for retrieval by the user; and  
transferring the requested data to a portable receiving device, wherein the data stored on the portable receiving device is encrypted and configured to decrypt the requested data.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the encrypted data is personalized for each user.

22. A method of transferring data over a hybrid network, the hybrid network including a plurality of networks, each network configured for physical and/or electronic transfer of the data, comprising:

physically transporting data from a first network to a second network;

storing the transported data to a local transfer station for distribution based on a user request; and

transferring the requested data to a portable receiving device, wherein the data stored on the local transfer station is encrypted and the portable receiving device is configured to decrypt the data.